



NEWS RELEASE

City Issues Stage Three Watering Ban

ABBOTSFORD July 24, 2009 - The City of Abbotsford will go to Stage Three of the Water Shortage Response Plan on Tuesday July 27 due to rising temperatures, announced Mayor George W. Peary today.

“The rising temperatures have caused a spike in water demand,” said Peary. “This has made it difficult for our reservoirs to adequately recharge our water stores which must remain full for fire protection.”

Stage three of the plan completely prohibits all lawn sprinkling and hosing of outdoor surfaces such as driveways and walkways. Additionally, residents will be required to turn-off all non re-circulating fountains. These restrictions will be stringently enforced by City Bylaw Enforcement for the duration of the ban. Garden watering by hand held hose or container and necessary refilling of wading pools will still be permitted.

“Metering data shows that water usage for the City has spiked by 30 to 40 per cent on extremely hot days,” said Peary. “Most of this spike in usage is attributed to increased outdoor watering, and although our long range storage supplies are adequate, the local water distribution system cannot safely accommodate these large spikes in usage.”

The City will continue to water sand based sports fields to provide an overall community benefit, but will be monitoring the situation closely. If it becomes necessary to discontinue the watering of these fields, the fields will be closed for the summer and use in the fall and winter may also be compromised. To avoid this situation in the future, the City will begin to install irrigation wells like the ones at Exhibition Park at significant sports field locations over the next several years so they can be irrigated independently from the municipal drinking water system.

The City has asked that citizens take part in voluntary watering reduction over the next few days until the full ban takes effect on Tuesday.

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